

# MOUNT UNION

MOUNT UNION MAGAZINE | MOUNTUNION.EDU/MAGAZINE | #MOUNTUNION

SPRING/SUMMER  
2021



UNIVERSITY OF  
MOUNT UNION  
EST. 1846

175  
YEARS



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## Get Social with #MountUnion



### #BeExceptional

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Commencement 2021 will long be remembered as a record-setting event. While there were far too many restrictions and regulations as we continued to confront the pandemic, we triumphed during six commencements (that's the record that hopefully will never be broken). The first four, though somewhat chilly, proceeded at a good pace in the Mount Union Stadium with students celebrating and parents rejoicing. On Sunday morning, with two events left, we faced a torrential rain. So, the graduates and faculty moved into the Peterson Field House while our guests watched on screens from the covered stands. As parents joined us after the singing of the alma mater, we saw smiles and hugs and a joy that had largely been missing from 2020-2021. To each of you, thank you for your understanding, forgiveness, and empathy as we turn the page from a very difficult year to a brighter and sunnier future at Mount Union.

*The Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives Campaign* is nearing its conclusion as we anticipate reaching the \$50 million goal in the upcoming year. Typically, I join the University advancement staff in making many visits to our friends and donors to personally acknowledge the support our of students and campus community. We have missed seeing you on campus and look forward to reconnecting in the upcoming year. You deserve to be thanked many times over for your exemplary support and encouragement. Further, the gifts given, especially those to the Dick Merriman and Margot Kelman President's Rescue

Fund and the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund have provided a route to keep future Purple Raider alumni moving toward their degrees and the promise of "fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship."

This year marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mount Union, which began as a subscription school and academy. In Yost Osborne's *A Select School*, he notes that our founder and first president, Orville Nelson Hartshorn, assured that the college would have "distinctive features" that guaranteed a thorough education equally attainable to all" at "economy in expense." He also noted, as remains true today, that the College would be a product of its environment as it moved from the conventional educational traditions of the east to the promise of the expansive west. The young institution was to be fueled by faith, energy, and enthusiasm.

In our next 175 years, we must rededicate the University to continue to grow and prosper in the way envisioned in 1846. In the upcoming academic year, we will again be as fully open as possible to providing the best in academics, campus life, co-curricular programs, and service to others on our campus and for our community. We enthusiastically welcome you to visit campus and to see our students in action. The current strategic plan, *Compass 2021*, will come to its successful conclusion. The students, staff, faculty, administration, and trustees have affirmed our mission of "fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship" as we begin to collegially develop our next



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**"We have missed seeing you on campus and look forward to reconnecting in the upcoming year. You deserve to be thanked many times over for your exemplary support and encouragement."**

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ambitious plan. Our decisions and actions will impact the next five years and, ultimately, the success of the University of Mount Union 175 years from now. Evan Lodge '30, a Mount Union alumnus, wrote a poem in Hartshorn's honor for the centennial celebration. It concludes:

*O.N. smiled, murmured, "There's work to do!"  
Left old problems, turned to face the new.*

Please join us on campus soon.

Let us turn to face the new.

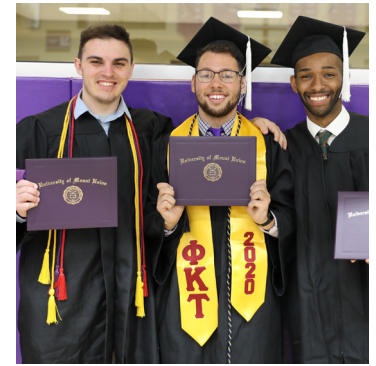
## UNIQUE YEAR BRINGS SIX COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES TO RECOGNIZE GRADUATES

Though myriad challenges faced members of the Mount Union community since the beginning of 2020, the institution was safely able to hold six commencement ceremonies to recognize the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021.

To cooperate with capacity guidelines from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Responsible Restart Ohio plan, Mount Union was able to host parents and family in the covered stands of Mount Union Stadium to witness their students become alumni. Four of the six ceremonies were held outside in the stadium, with the final two ceremonies held in the Peterson Field House due to inclement weather.

Congratulations to all of the graduates!

See the entire gallery of Commencement  
Weekend photos on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/UniversityofMountUnion/photos](https://facebook.com/UniversityofMountUnion/photos)



## CUMMINGS '09 NAMED GREAT TEACHER, MITCHELL '21 OUTSTANDING SENIOR FOR 2021

Rachel Cummings '09, instructor and director of athletic training, was named Mount Union's Great Teacher for 2021.

A member of the Mount Union faculty since 2019, Cummings earned a Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training from the institution. She also earned a Master of Arts degree in exercise, leisure, and sport from Kent State University.



A student nominator said, "She truly puts the mental health of students before everything else, making sure that they are not only physically ready for class, but emotionally. She continually checks on students who have graduated. You can feel the passion that she has for teaching and her profession. There is no one more deserving of this award."

The Great Teacher Award, initiated in 1962, is sponsored by the Alumni Association and recognizes excellence in teaching.

Carlee Mitchell '21, a biochemistry and French double major of Alliance, Ohio, was named Mount Union's 2021 Outstanding Senior.

Mitchell has been on the Dean's List for six semesters and is a member of Alpha Mu Gamma, the Honors Program, the Association of International Students, French Club, Gender Equity Matters, Kappa Pi, Student Senate, and UMU Health and Prosperity Club.



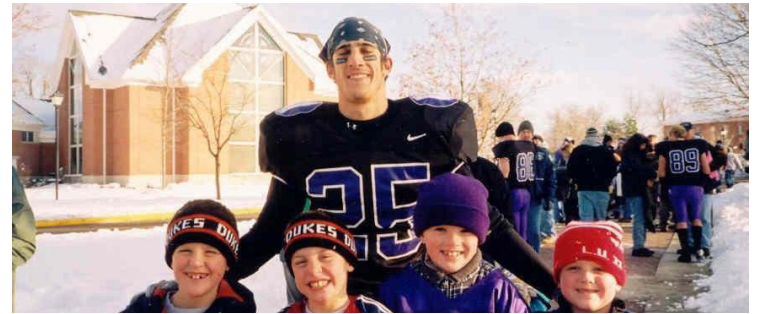
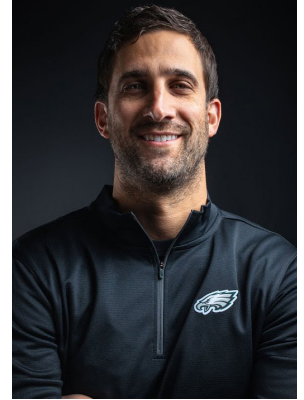
She has served as president of the American Chemical Society for two years and also studied abroad in Lyon, France. She was a recipient of the Dr. Donald J. and G.E. Brugger Pre-Med Award, the Mary Frost French Prize, and the Morgan Song Leadership Biochemistry Prize.

Other nominees included Olivia Andrew '21, a psychology major of Brunswick, Ohio, Emily Ina '21, a biology and neuroscience double major of Brunswick, Ohio, and Sarah Turley '21, a biochemistry major of Sagamore Hills, Ohio.

## SIRIANNI '03 NAMED HEAD COACH OF THE NFL'S PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Quickly climbing the coaching ranks from his days as defensive backs coach at Mount Union from 2004-2005, Nick Sirianni '03 was recently named head coach of the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

Sirianni was most recently offensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts for the past three seasons. He is the 21<sup>st</sup> full-time head coach hired by the Eagles franchise.



## MOUNT UNION NAMED A TOP COLLEGE IN OHIO FOR ALUMNI EARNINGS AMONG RECENT GRADUATES

Mount Union was recently announced as one of the 2021 Best Colleges in Ohio for bachelor's degree Salary Score by Optimal's GradReports. The institution was ranked eighth in the state and third in the Northeast Ohio region.

GradReports compared the salaries of more than 4.6 million college graduates to determine Salary Scores for more than 885 college degrees, then used the scores to rank the 2021 Best Colleges at the associate's, bachelor's, and master's levels.

The Salary Score is based on median alumni earnings and median alumni debt in the year after graduating, using data from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard. The score compares the median alumni salary for a specific program at one school to the median alumni salary for the same program at other schools, allowing prospective students to see which schools offer top earnings for that program.

Alumni of Mount Union's programs in biology, computer science, and mechanical engineering all had salary scores in at least the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the national average.



See all award winners at  
[mountunion.edu/honors-convocation](https://mountunion.edu/honors-convocation)

The cost of a college education and increasing student debt are top concerns for today's families, and both pose significant obstacles for students seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees.

At the outset of the *Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives* campaign, scholarship support was the top priority. Now, in the University's fifth and final year of the campaign, Mount Union celebrates the generosity of alumni and friends creating scholarship opportunities for current and future Purple Raiders.

Learn more about the *Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives* Campaign

[mountunion.edu/inspire](https://mountunion.edu/inspire)



"I was thankful to have received multiple scholarships, from the Trustee Scholarship to the Minority Achievement Award to an Esports Scholarship!"

-Santino Diaz-Palma '22



NEW SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED:

66

FOR A TOTAL OF

\$7,600,000

IN NEW SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS  
FOR STUDENTS

## ENDOW A SCHOLARSHIP AND PAVE THE WAY FOR MOUNT UNION'S NEXT 175 YEARS

As the institution celebrates Mount Union's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and reflects on the scholarship opportunities created throughout the current campaign, the University's work is not yet done. We will continue to work to ensure deserving students of all backgrounds have access to a Mount Union education.

Alumni and friends can help make a future student's dream of attending Mount Union a reality by endowing a scholarship in three easy steps:

### 1. Determine the gift amount and a payment plan that is comfortable

The minimum gift for an endowed scholarship is \$25,000. This amount can be paid over time. (example: \$5,000/yr for five years)

### 2. Create a scholarship name and description

There are opportunities for those who want to memorialize a former classmate or family member in the scholarship's name. Donors have the opportunity to memorialize a former classmate or family member in the scholarship's name and description. Criteria for the recipient may include a student's major, class year, or high school alma mater. The options are limitless.

### 3. Change a student's life

Once the full amount is received, the fund must sit for one year to grow before it is awarded. Every year afterward, the donor will receive a financial report on the scholarship including the scholarship recipient(s) name(s). Endowed scholarships live on in perpetuity to benefit Purple Raiders for generations yet to come.

## CAMPAIGN GOALS

**GOAL:**  
**\$10 MILLION**  
**EXCELLENCE**

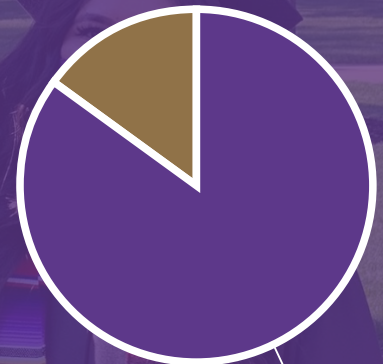
Facility, classroom, and lab enhancements



**CURRENT:**  
**\$15.3 MILLION**

**GOAL:**  
**\$8 MILLION**  
**MOUNT UNION FUND**

Annual support for areas of immediate need



**CURRENT:**  
**\$6.8 MILLION**

**GOAL:**  
**\$7 MILLION**  
**INNOVATION**

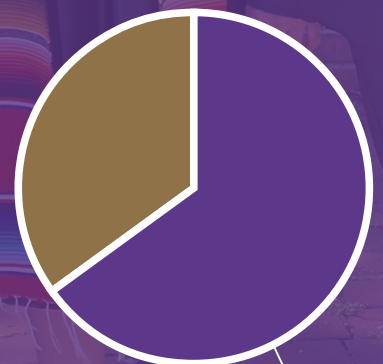
Academic and co-curricular programs



**CURRENT:**  
**\$7.1 MILLION**

**GOAL:**  
**\$25 MILLION**  
**OPPORTUNITY**

Scholarships and financial assistance



**CURRENT:**  
**\$16.2 MILLION**

# 175 YEARS

History seldom seems like it is being made when it happens. When Orville Nelson Hartshorn — “Alliance’s Abraham Lincoln,” as many prospective student passersby would imply from his statue near the campus lakes — came through the town of Mount Union, one could assume he felt he was making a difference for a small population. What he did was create a place where tens of thousands of individuals have found a second home, a career path, and, most often, themselves.

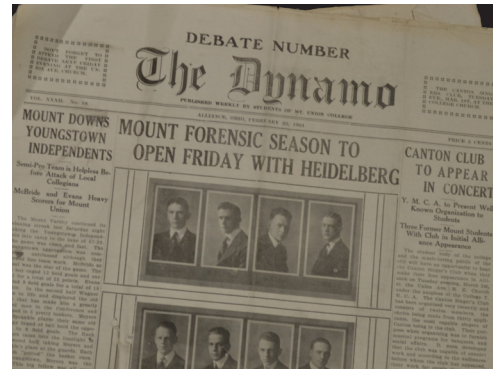
History continues to be made on Mount Union’s campus 175 years after Hartshorn stepped foot in the community. With the expansion and renovation of the campus, its facilities, and academic offerings, Mount Union is poised for continued growth, all while reflecting on how it got to this significant moment in time.

The following pages reflect upon the University’s history as its bicentennial — 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary — approaches. The institution’s first 150 years are highlighted visually on first two subsequent pages. The following pages offer more detail regarding the exceptional progress made in the last 25 years.

*See [mountunion.edu/175](http://mountunion.edu/175) for a more extensive timeline and additional historical highlights.*

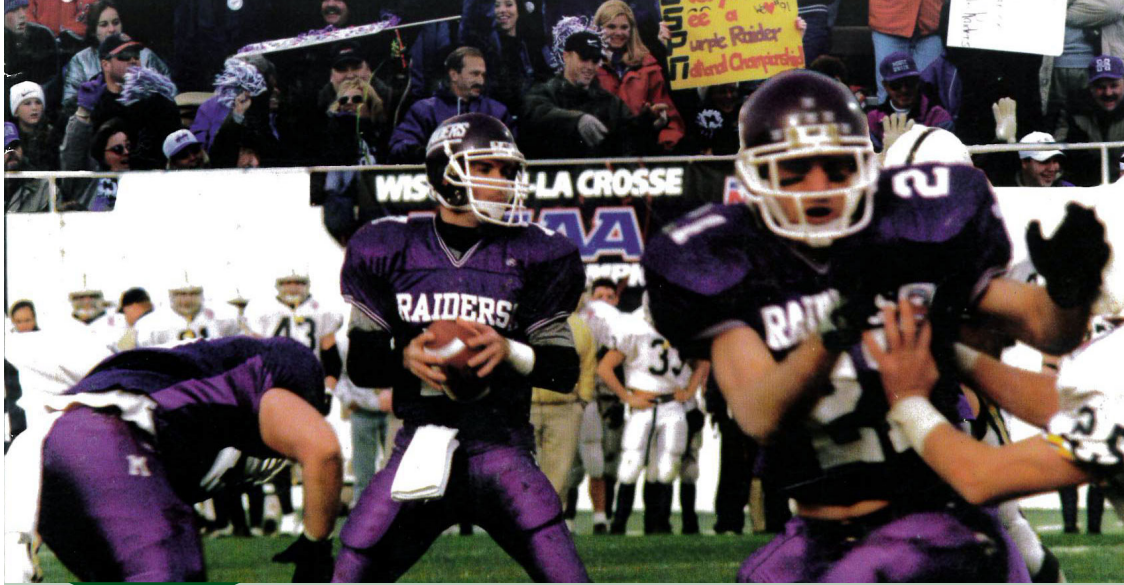






# CAMPUS LEADERS

Throughout the course of the past 25 years, Mount Union has been fortunate to have had five capable presidents at the helm. These individuals have led the institution during a time of unprecedented change and growth. The timeline that follows highlights some of their key successes, which have been color-coded (as detailed below) by presidential tenure.



## 1997

The Purple Raiders clinch their third NCAA Division III National Championship in football following wins in 1993 and 1996. The Mount Union football team would go on to win in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2015, and 2017, for a total of 13 championships, a record for any football program in any division in a playoff format. Other NCAA national championships earned by Mount Union athletic teams include cross country (1974), men's outdoor track (2014 and 2018), and men's indoor track (2018), in addition to numerous individual titles.

is \$19.5 million, and *Building Toward 2000*, a fundraising effort specific to these projects, is established under the umbrella of the *Progress with Tradition* capital campaign.

## 1999

The *Progress with Tradition* campaign ends with \$63.6 million raised, surpassing the \$35 million goal and building a solid foundation for future campaign successes. Subsequent campaigns would include *Drive for Distinction*, which would raise \$82.3 million, surpassing its \$80 million goal a year ahead of its 2010 completion schedule; a \$25 million campaign for the health and medical sciences building and performing arts center, which would result in the opening of the Giese Center for the Performing Arts and Gallaher Hall during the 2014-2015 academic year; and the current *Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives* effort, a \$50-million campaign, of which \$45.4 million has been raised to date.

## 1998

While construction continues on Bica-Ross Residence Hall, ground is broken on the Dewald Chapel, Kolenbrander-Harter Information Center (KHIC), and Shields Residence Hall. The project total for these three new facilities

Dr. Harold M. Kolenbrander

1986-2000



Dr. John L. Ewing, Jr.

2000-2005



Dr. Richard F. Giese

2005-2015



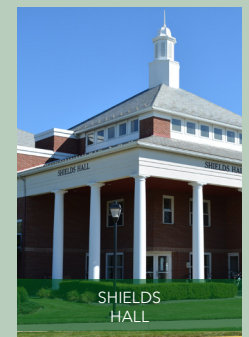
Dr. W. Richard Merriman, Jr.

2015-2020



Dr. Thomas J. Botzman

2020-present

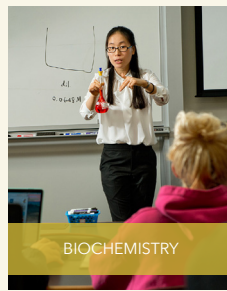


# 2000

President Ewing initiates a strategic planning process on campus, beginning with the identification of Mount Union's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Subsequent, successful strategic planning efforts would include the *Advancing Excellence* plan during Dr. Giese's tenure and the *Compass 2021* plan during Dr. Merriman's presidency.

# 2001

In the wake of the tragedies of September 11, 2001, efforts to bring the Mount Union community together are initiated on campus. Student organizations, encouraged by members of the Alpha Lambda Delta academic honorary, rally to raise funds to support those directly impacted. More than a decade later, Mount Union art students would partner with the City of Alliance to establish a September 11 Memorial in Silver Park. This memorial, which would be dedicated on September 11, 2014, would honor all who perished on September 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, PA.



BIOCHEMISTRY



NEUROSCIENCE



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



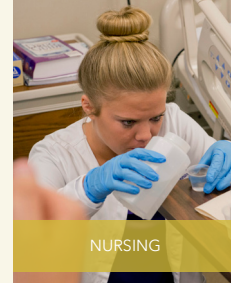
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



CIVIL ENGINEERING



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



NURSING



BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

# 2002

The institution adds a new, in-demand major in biochemistry, one of the first in a series of strategic additions to the undergraduate curriculum that would move Mount Union further toward comprehensive university status. Other strategic additions throughout the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century would include neuroscience (2005), intervention specialist (2007), criminal justice (2008), environmental science (2008), civil engineering

(2010), mechanical engineering (2010), nursing (2012), human development and family science (2013), biomedical engineering (2018), computer engineering (2018), electrical engineering (2018), and risk management and insurance (2019), among others.

# 2003

Mount Union receives continued accreditation without conditions from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The University would receive reaffirmation of its accreditation from the HLC in 2013 and 2021.

# 2004

U.S. Congress passes an appropriations bill, awarding \$1 million to Mount Union for the establishment of a Center for Public Service. The center would later be named for the late Congressman Ralph Regula '48, and his late wife, Mary (Rogusky '49) Regula, in honor of their decades-long commitment to public service. In future years, the Regula center would offer a variety of opportunities that allow students to prepare for careers in public service, get involved in the community, and learn about the importance of civic engagement.





ate in the fashion in which they have become accustomed. It would result in a new partnership with AVI Foodsystems, a dining commons and B & B Café “face lift,” a renovation of traditional residence halls, the construction of apartment-style housing (Hartshorn Village, Brown Village, and Union Avenue West Village), and an overhaul of recreation facilities, including the MAAC.

## 2005

The dedication of a new house for the Sigma Nu fraternity ushers in an era of campus revitalization following the construction of Bracy Hall in 2003. Over the course of the next 10 years, the University would invest more than \$110 million in its campus and facilities, significantly renovating or constructing 35 of the institution’s 50+ current facilities. In addition to the Sigma Nu house, renovated and constructed buildings during this period would include the Hoover-Price Campus Center (2007), Brown Village (2007), Hartshorn Village (2007), McPherson Academic and Athletic Complex (MAAC) (2009), Gartner Welcome Center (2009), Oak Hall (2010), Academic Mall (2010), Union Avenue West Village (2011), Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity House (2012), Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity House (2013), Delta Sigma Tau Sorority House (2013), Mount Union Stadium (2013) Mount

Union Stadium Plaza (2013), Gallaher Hall (2014), KHIC Learning Commons (2014), Riggs Plaza (2014), and the Giese Center for the Performing Arts (2015). In the years to follow, the University would also renovate or construct Wable Park (2019), Tolerton and Hood Hall (2019), the third floor of KHIC (2019), van den Eynden Hall (2019), Rafeld-Rogers Field (2019), and the Capers Football Coaching Center (2020). In addition, the institution would break ground on an addition to Oak Hall to support growth in business and engineering (2021).

## 2006

Mount Union takes steps to create what is referred to as a 24/7 campus – one that provides students with the modern conveniences they require in order to feel “at home” at Mount Union. This effort focuses on tailoring campus to allow students to eat, sleep, and recre-

## 2007

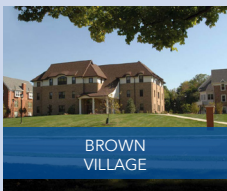
The University welcomes a record-breaking class of more than 700 new students, a number that would be surpassed in both 2008 and 2012. Overall enrollment reaches a record 2,166 full-time students in 2010. In addition, a campus-wide plan would result in improved retention rates, achieving the highest freshman-to-sophomore retention rate in nearly a decade at 78.3% in 2014.

## 2008

Mount Union’s physician assistant (PA) studies program, the first graduate program on campus in nearly a century, is granted provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). The program would begin on campus a year later with an inaugural class of 19 students and eventually reach a cap of 40 students annually. In later years, additional graduate programs would be launched on campus, including a Doctor of Physical Therapy as well as a Master of Education and Master of Business Administration, both of which would be offered fully online.

## 2009

Following the launch of a campus climate study on diversity, Mount Union adopts a comprehensive Diversity Plan, which calls for an increase in the number of diverse students living and



BROWN VILLAGE



MCPHERSON ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX



GARTNER WELCOME CENTER



OAK HALL



MOUNT UNION STADIUM



GALLAHER HALL



GEIESE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



CAPERS FOOTBALL COACHING CENTER

learning on campus. The institution would surpass the initial goal set forth in this plan with 17% of the student body being American minority or international students. Diversity programming would be enhanced as well, including the establishment of a number of new diversity-related organizations, including current organizations such as Active Minds, the Association of International Students, the Black Student Union, Brothers Building Bonds, Gender Equity Matters, Hispanic Organization Latin America (HOLA), PRIDE, Sister Circle, and Spiritual Life Leadership.



## 2010

After careful review of data and thoughtful consideration, the Board of Trustees votes unanimously to change the designation of the institution from “college” to “university.” August 1, 2010, marks the official change to the University of Mount Union. The decision followed a research effort about current trends and perceptions, and alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and current students provided critical feedback. The extraordinary amount of change and progress at Mount Union served as a catalyst for the decision.



## 2011

The members of the Mount Union Board of Trustees approve the addition of men’s and women’s lacrosse teams to the University’s intercollegiate athletic program. Varsity competition with the NCAA’s Division III would begin in 2012-2013. Within the decade, additional athletic and co-curricular offerings would include competitive cheer and dance (2018), men’s volleyball (2019), and esports (2019).



## 2012

With a general education curriculum that hadn’t been revised in nearly three decades, the Mount Union faculty develops and launches the Integrative Core – a collection of foundational courses that ensures a well-rounded educational experience. Alongside this general educational overhaul is a complete restructuring of the academic curriculum resulting from the common course being transitioned from three to four credits.

## 2013

The University begins a fiscal year that would result in the institution’s 60<sup>th</sup> year of balanced financial operations. As a result of prudent management, the generosity of alumni and friends, and the diligence of the entire campus community, Mount Union would continue this streak through the current day, a remarkable accomplishment during a

time when many colleges and universities are struggling financially or closing their doors.

## 2014

In an effort to battle “brain drain” in the area and keep Alliance’s best and brightest in the city, Mount Union launches the Investment Alliance initiative. Through the program, the top 15 students of each Alliance High School graduating class who meet the eligibility requirements of the program are awarded full-tuition undergraduate awards to Mount Union that are renewable for up to four years. The program would lead to nearly 70 Investment Alliance scholars enrolling at Mount Union, with more than 60% of them living and working in the Alliance area following graduation.

## 2015

The University designates 2015 as the Year of the Arts on campus, a yearlong celebration featuring a number of special and guest performances, a full repertoire of music and theatre student performances, gallery shows by student and professional artists, and a number of lectures dedicated to the arts. The year also featured the dedication and opening of the Richard F. and Sandra L. Giese Center for the Performing Arts during the University’s Black Tie Gala event.



# 2016

In accordance with a strategic planning initiative to enhance workplace culture, the faculty, administrators, staff, and trustees begin work to articulate shared governance and lay out clearly the roles of each group in various domains. This work would result in strengthened leadership development and succession processes within the Board of Trustees, the development of a Faculty Senate and Administrator Advisory Council (to complement the existing Support Staff Advisory Council), and a revised internal communication strategy to provide enhanced clarity and transparency.



# 2017

Mount Union continues its efforts to address college affordability and make its education accessible to students of all backgrounds through the establishment of the Dick Merriman and Margot Kelman President's Rescue Fund. This fund is designed for juniors and seniors who have explored all financial aid and loan options to support their education, but still need a little help to get them to the finish line. Two years later, the University would announce the creation of the Mount Union Pell Opportunity Grant, which would bridge the entire gap between tuition costs and what families of modest financial means can afford to pay toward a college degree. After qualified students have tapped funds from the Federal Pell Grant and loan programs, Mount Union Pell Opportunity Grants would cover remaining financial needs to fully pay for the University's tuition.



# 2018

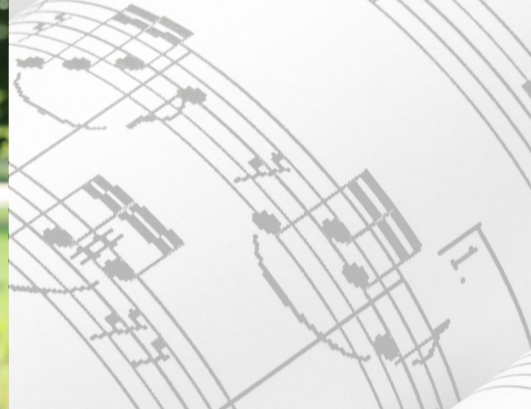
The Board of Trustees makes the decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church following the church's confirmation and commitment to enforcing rules regarding the LGBTQIA community. The church's decision is deemed at odds with the University's historical and current commitments to welcome and support all people who wish to participate in the institution's programs. The trustees affirm the importance of vibrant campus ministry and spiritual life programs and commit to continued emphasis of its Methodist and Wesleyan heritage and commitments.

# 2019

Adapting to the growth and success of its academic offering and the ever-changing landscape of higher education, Mount

Union reorganizes its academic structure into three distinct colleges within the institution. The College of Applied and Social Sciences, College of Arts and Humanities, and College of Natural and Health Sciences are established as a result. In addition, new founding deans join the Mount Union community – Dr. Kristine Still, founding dean of the College of Applied and Social Sciences; Dr. Heather Duda, founding dean of the College of Arts and Humanities; and Dr. Sandra Madar, founding dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.





## LET THE ECHOES ROLL

### 2020

As Dr. Merriman hands the reins over to Dr. Botzman, Mount Union joins the rest of the world in battling the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic. In-person classes are transitioned to an online format within a matter of days, and residence halls are closed for the remainder of the 2020 Spring Semester as a result of guidelines and mandates. Careful planning over the summer months makes it possible for a return to campus for the 2020-2021 Academic Year, albeit with modifications within the living and learning environment detailed in the institution's *Fall 2020 Responsible Reopening Guide*. The University would go on to successfully navigate the challenges of the pandemic, keeping positive case numbers to a minimum and carrying out random surveillance testing and campus vaccination clinics while supporting students in need with emergency funding (see page 14). The academic year would wrap up with six in-person Commencement ceremonies (see page 2), and the University would begin work to adapt its policies as restrictions are lifted.

### 2021

Mount Union announces the addition of a School of Business and a School of Education as part of a realignment of

its academic structure. These two new schools join the already existing School of Engineering within the College of Applied and Social Sciences. These additions come as a result of Mount Union's continued strength within the respective areas, with more than 440 undergraduate students majoring in a business-related field and nearly 200 undergraduates majoring in an education-related field as of the 2020 Spring Semester.



To help commemorate Mount Union's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mount Union has commissioned Harry Paidas '74 to write an updated history of Mount Union from 1996 (the sesquicentennial) through 2021.

Paidas is uniquely qualified for the role since he graduated from Mount and spent 33 years of his professional career as the chief public relations officer, faculty member in the Department of Communication, and director of the Regula Center for Public Service. He was a direct report to five of Mount Union's presidents as well as a colleague of current President Tom Botzman. During the past three decades, he was literally "in the room where it happened."

The book will be titled *Let the Echoes Roll*, a line from the Mount Union fight song which ties into the previous title authored by the late John Saffell, *Wake the Echoes*. The original history, *A Select School*, was authored by N. Yost Osborne.

In *Let the Echoes Roll*, Paidas recounts the major decisions and events that have shaped Mount Union during the past 25 years and the accomplishments of each of the presidents during that time frame. A separate chapter is dedicated to the unprecedented success of the football program, which has produced national media coverage.

The book is scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving 2021 and available for purchase in time for the holidays.



# Getting Through Together

*Reflecting on the impact of the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund*

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At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, the Mount Union COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund was established to provide relief to the many students facing financial challenges resulting from the pandemic.

Thanks to the support of generous alumni and friends, more than \$300,000 was raised to support students during these unprecedented times. Throughout the year, students applied for aid, and more than 115 students were helped by the Student Emergency Fund. This fund helped students to pay bills, afford groceries, access technology needed for distance learning, and continue their education at Mount Union. Without this support, their lives would look different today.

Nearly 18 months after the pandemic began, a few Purple Raiders who received funding from the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund discussed what this meant to them.

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{BY LOGAN AGUINIGA}



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Khari Wilcox '21, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, did not find the perfect college on the first try. Luckily, he transferred to Mount Union in the fall of 2017.

“I learned about Mount Union through the football coach, but I really liked that the class sizes are small, and you get that one-on-one attention with professors,” said Wilcox. “The small campus makes you feel at home. At no other school do you get your professors’ cell numbers and can text them in the evening with a question.”

With his senior year almost complete, Khari emphasized that the people have made his Mount Union experience an incredible one.

“When I think of Mount Union, I think of family,” he said. “The family you build here, not just your friends, but faculty and staff as well are really there for you when things get hard. If you want to benefit from loyalty to you and your education, I recommend coming to Mount Union.”

Things got difficult in March 2020 when the COVID-19 virus took hold of the globe and shut many countries down. Khari had a couple of jobs, but said when the world shut down, his work stopped. Khari’s student account had late balances, he had bills to pay, and he was not sure how he was going to make ends meet. He found a job at the YMCA, which helped, and then he learned about and applied for the Student Emergency Fund.

“Receiving support from the Student Emergency Fund was the biggest blessing of this entire year,” he said. “When I found out I received the award, I was relieved. I told my mom, and she was so happy.”

Khari wanted to say “thank you” to those donors who made the Student Emergency Fund possible.



Khari Wilcox '21  
Ypsilanti, Michigan | B.A., Sport Business

“You are truly blessing other people’s lives,” he said. “You’re helping college students get through school. You are helping me get through school and get through life. Thank you.”

Khari has one piece of advice for his fellow Purple Raiders: “Don’t ever be ashamed to ask for help. If you need help, ask for it. You will be amazed at the support this community has to offer.”

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“Receiving support from the Student Emergency Fund was the biggest blessing of this entire year. When I found out I received the award, I was relieved. I told my mom, and she was so happy.”

- Khari Wilcox '21



## Kayla '21 and Valerie '21 Sitler

Leetonia, Ohio | B.S., Human Development and Family Science | B.S., Nursing

Though identical twins Kayla and Valerie Sitler both fell in love with Mount Union, they have blazed two unique trails while on campus, and are looking forward to helping others in their respective fields of study after graduation.

Originally from Leetonia, Ohio, the sisters have driven past Mount Union many times, but did not give the University much thought until they visited campus during their junior year of high school. Both Valerie and Kayla felt at home during their time on campus.

“I am a shy person, so the small classes appealed to me,” Kayla explained, “I didn’t want to get lost in a crowd of people at another school. Plus, everyone I met here was so friendly.”

Valerie, a nursing major, said she has always wanted to find a profession through which she could help other people. Being a quiet person, nursing intimidated her at first.

“Mount Union helped me break out of my shell. After my first semester, I felt more confident to pursue nursing,” Valerie said. “That was the best decision I could have made. I absolutely love the program and my cohort.”

While Valerie thrives in the nursing program, Kayla was drawn to psychology after taking a class during her second

semester as a Purple Raider. She will work to become a clinical mental health counselor after graduation.

At the end of the Sitler sisters’ junior year, COVID-19 shifted everything. They found themselves learning completely online like the rest of the world and missing the campus with which they fell in love. Worse yet, Kayla and Valerie were both unsure of how they were going to pay for school. Kayla said they thought they might have to stop going to school for a while to save up money to return.

“With everything going on in school and the world, I was trying so hard to focus on my classes, but the stress of paying for them was overwhelming,” said Valerie.

They then learned about the Student Emergency Fund. Kayla and Valerie each reached out to ask for help and were made aware of the fund created to help students like them. They each applied and received the aid.

“I did not want my time at Mount Union to be interrupted. Thanks to the Student Emergency Fund, it wasn’t,” Kayla said. “I felt so relieved to learn we received the money. A lot of times, you feel alone when you encounter a big life challenge. To know that there are people out there who really care about my sister and me finishing school was the most amazing feeling.”

Kayla and Valerie are looking forward to using their Mount Union educations to impact their community.

“This gift will have an enormous impact,” Valerie said. “I will be able to help so many patients in the future because I was given this help. I would never have been able to impact those people if I had not come to Mount Union. I am looking forward to caring for my patients and paying this incredible gift forward.”

“A lot of times, you feel alone when you encounter a big life challenge. To know that there are people out there who really care about my sister and me finishing school was the most amazing feeling.”

- Valerie Sitler '21

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Christian Lopez '21 committed to Mount Union without ever having set foot on campus.

“I knew I wanted to play football at a Division III school. What better place than Mount Union?” Lopez asked.

Lopez first came to Alliance from his hometown of Deltona, Florida for football training his freshman year. He loved playing Purple Raider football and is also extremely grateful for his experience off the field.

“My favorite thing about Mount is all the connections I have made on campus,” said Lopez. “The relationships I’ve built in admission and with faculty and staff all mean so much to me.”

The youngest of five children and a first-generation college student, Lopez works diligently to support himself. When the pandemic hit, he struggled to make ends meet. His student account and bills quickly piled up. He went to financial aid to see what options he had, applied for the Student Emergency Fund, and received aid for his circumstance.

“I was ecstatic to learn I received some of the funding. The financial burden being lifted off my shoulders allowed me to focus on school,” Lopez said. “I’m so thankful to those who made the Student Emergency Fund possible. They’ve helped more than just me since I am working to pave the way for my family members and future generations. Their impact is greater than just my journey.”

Lopez was excited to complete his human resource management major and pursue a master’s in educational leadership. He wants to be in a position to help others.



Christian Lopez '21  
Deltona, Florida | B.A., Human Resource Management

“Mount Union has helped me grow tremendously. When I came here, my biggest concern was sports,” Lopez said. “Now, I’m organized. I take responsibility for myself. The way people around me have influenced me, had my back, and supported me – it makes me feel at home. I am so happy I chose Mount Union.”

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“I’m so thankful to those who made the Student Emergency Fund possible. Their impact is greater than just my journey.”

- Christian Lopez '21

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# CLASS NOTES

Class Notes to be included in the Fall/Winter 2021 Issue of *Mount Union Magazine* must be received before October 31, 2021.

Material for Class Notes is obtained online or through news passed along from alumni to the offices of Alumni Engagement, Advancement, and The Mount Union Fund. Notices sent by the Post Office are not printed in Class Notes. You may also submit your class note via email at [alumni@mountunion.edu](mailto:alumni@mountunion.edu) or the form found at [mountunion.edu/alumni](http://mountunion.edu/alumni).

## 1970s

**John Case '77** of Beavercreek, Ohio, received the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award for his service as contract trial attorney and fraud counsel, Air Force Material Command Law Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He retired from the Air Force after 37 years of federal service on August 1, 2020. In July 2013, John retired from the Air Force Reserve Program in the Judge Advocate General's Department with the rank of Colonel.

**Rose (Markovich '70) Cassmer** recently appeared as an extra in *Manhunt: Deadly Games*, a television show about the 1996 bombing of Atlanta's Olympic Park during the Olympic Games.

**Gary Loar '73** retired in June 2021 from McGean where he served as a researcher, technical director, and global manager. He looks forward to part-time lab research and traveling.

**Delphyne Lomax Taylor '76** recently had a book published: *Woman 2 Woman: Life Lessons Learned on the Journey to Marriage, Motherhood, Entrepreneurship, Divorce, Surviving Breast Cancer, and Finding New Love*. It can be found at [woman2woman.network](http://woman2woman.network).

## 1980s

**Sharon (Sailer '81) Andrews** is currently working on her third novel. She is the author of two books: *Grinder* and the *Red Bull and Sabvon*, a World of Valencia novel.

**Kimberly (Wall '82) Dugan** retired May 30, 2020 from the Plano Independent School District in Texas where she was an instructional specialist. She was an educator for 37 years.

**Melvin Gravelly '88**, CEO of TriVersity Construction, is the 2020 winner of the Carl H. Lindner Award for Entrepreneurial and Civic Spirit. The award goes to a current or former leader of a Deloitte Cincinnati USA 100 company; the list ranks the 100 largest privately held companies in the Cincinnati region.



**James R. Knepp, II '86** was sworn in to serve as a United States District Judge in Toledo, Ohio. Judge Knepp was nominated by former President Donald J. Trump to serve a life term. Since 2010, Judge Knepp has served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

**Timothy Popa '80** recently retired from Nationwide Insurance with over 38 years of experience in underwriting.

## 1990s

**Jeffrey Crossman '94** of Cleveland, Ohio was re-elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. He represents Ohio's 15<sup>th</sup> House District.

## 2000s

**Rachel (Bailey '08) and Michael '06 Gibbons** announce the birth of a daughter, Nora, on August 4, 2019. She joins siblings Lainey, 9, Cael, 7, and Molly, 4.

## 2010s

**Christina Best '11** was appointed editor-in-chief at Caregiving.com.

**Julianne (Liberati '14) and Alex Conard** announce the birth of a daughter, Adelyn Beth, on January 19, 2021.



**Alyssa (Cuffman '15) and Kyle '13 Edwards** announce the birth of a son, Mitchell, on August 16, 2020.



**Mackenzie (Parsons '14) and Austen '12 Hutton** announce the birth of a son, Paxten James born July 11, 2020.



**Holly (Fabrizio '12) and Alex '10 Koehler** announce the birth of a daughter, Evelyn, on February 12, 2020.



**Jenna (Williams '14) and David '14 Loxterman** announce the birth of a daughter, Quinn, on June 21, 2020.



**Taylor (Sassa '10) and Andrew '10 Neimes** announce the birth of a daughter, Zoey, on September 17, 2020. She joins sibling Mackenzie, 2.



**Abbey (Chandler '14) and Blake '12 Rhein** announce the birth of a daughter, Hallie Christine, on July 31, 2020.



**Aaron Sarbaugh '14**, head football coach of the Fairless Falcons in Navarre, Ohio, was recently named PAC-7 Coach of the Year.

**Jordan (Beard '14) and Dillon Shroyer**, announce the birth of their son, Davis Alan, on September 24, 2020.



**Clare and Corey '13 Unckrich** announce the birth of a son, Jacob Allen, on January 13, 2021. He joins brother Nicholas, 3.



## Deaths

### 1940s

**Aileen (Rowe '49) Estep** of Canton, Ohio passed away on April 13, 2021. She is survived by her husband of 71 years, **Roy '49**.

**James Halls '47** of Lebanon, Ohio passed away on March 5, 2021. He is the father of **Jean (Halls '75) Muetzel** and was preceded in death by his wife **Christine (Anderson '41) Halls**. James was a member of M Club and he and his wife received the Alumni Service Award in 1986.

**David McFarland '44** of Sebring, Ohio passed away on April 22, 2021.

**Mary Jane (Davis '44) Murphy** of Keyser, West Virginia, spouse of the late **Allen Murphy '43**, passed away December 23, 2020.

**Kenneth Shaweker '47** of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida passed away November 16, 2020.

**Kelsie Singleton '49** of Wadsworth, Ohio passed away on April 11, 2021.

**Mary "Louise" Smith-Baldwin '40** of Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania passed away on February 2, 2021.

**Rev. Charles Stewart '43** of Gaithersburg, Maryland passed away on January 1, 2019.

### 1950s

**Lois "Joan" (Heinzerling '52) Bebout** of San Antonio, Texas passed away January 5, 2021. She was the spouse of the late **Don Bebout '52**, who passed away June 6, 2018.

**Marye (Henderson '57) Belcastro** of Twinsburg, Ohio passed away January 6, 2021.

**Edward Ditch '56** of Caldwell, Ohio passed away December 20, 2020.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MESSAGE



The arrival of summer has so many different meanings — nicer weather, spending time outdoors, vacation — among many others. For the Mount

Union community, it means the conclusion of the academic year and most significantly, the celebration of another graduating class at Commencement.

At the beginning of May, we welcomed into our alumni ranks the members of the Class of 2021. We celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing them carry out fulfilling lives, perform meaningful work, and being responsible citizens. On behalf of our 19,000+ alumni around the world, I want to extend our congratulations to the Class of 2021 (in addition to the Class of 2020, who was also celebrated this May during Commencement exercises)! Our ties with Mount Union are never ending, and I encourage all recent graduates to stay connected. Whether through following Mount Union's social media platforms or keeping your contact information current, know that no matter your interest or time commitment, there are ways for you to get involved.

As we look forward to the start of the new academic year this fall, it is my hope that we will be able to see many of you back on campus for events, especially for Alumni Weekend and Homecoming in October. I look forward to coming together once again as a Mount Union family, providing us with the opportunity to celebrate everything that is Mount Union!

As always, on behalf of the Alumni Association and Mount Union, I thank you for your continued commitment, loyalty, and support!

With Purple Raider Pride,

**-Chad Johnson '07**  
Alumni Association President

# GET INVOLVED!



There are many ways to stay connected to your alma mater and enjoy Mount Union after leaving campus.



SCAN THIS WITH YOUR PHONE!

Whether you like volunteering at events, mentoring students, or even gathering fellow alumni and friends together in your city, we have something for you!

A variety of time commitments allow you to customize your experience and impact our community. Consider joining the Alumni Association, M Club, or Mount Union Women today. For more information on how to get involved or to make a gift, visit [mountunion.edu/alumni-organizations](http://mountunion.edu/alumni-organizations).

MOUNT UNION

## Women

The Mount Union Women organization has been supporting the education of women at Mount Union since 1933. This group raises funds to provide scholarships to deserving female students on campus. As a nonprofit organization, members of Mount Union Women volunteer in the concession stands at home football games and host various social events for alumni and friends. Any female graduate or friend of Mount Union may join!

For more information on how to get involved or to donate to the scholarship fund, visit [mountunionwomen.org](http://mountunionwomen.org). You can also stay connected on the Mount Union Women Facebook page.

## SAVE THE DATE!

# October 1-3, 2021

We cannot wait to welcome everyone back to campus to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mount Union at this year's Alumni Weekend and Homecoming.

[mountunion.edu/homecoming](http://mountunion.edu/homecoming)



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Mount Union Alumni Association operates under a three-committee structure. No matter your location or time-commitment, there's something for you!

**Connecting to Alumni** — Regional alumni clubs, Greek life, diversity, and more

**Connecting to Campus** — Student Alumni Association, career services, mentoring, and networking

**Alumni Weekend and Awards** — Alumni Weekend planning, Great Teacher Award, and Legacy Student Scholarships



M Club is the varsity letter winner's association. A student-athlete lettering in a varsity sport (men's or women's) at Mount Union is automatically a member upon graduation. The group serves to keep athletes connected with one another and raise funds to support the current student-athletes (and teams) on campus.

M Club support includes getting involved by attending meetings, athletic competitions, and events, as well as supporting Purple Raider athletics. Up to 100% of each gift can be designated to the sport(s) of your choice or the general M Club fund!

# THANK *you!*

# 1,048

TOTAL DONORS (NEW RECORD!)



## \$493,306

TOTAL RAISED

## \$2,500

TO ARTS AND HUMANITIES (DONOR VOTING WINNER)

## 1971, 2018, 2016

TOP THREE CLASSES WITH THE MOST DONORS

## \$60,000+

RAISED TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AID

### CHALLENGES COMPLETED:

- ✓ TRUSTEE CHALLENGE
- ✓ M CLUB/ATHLETICS
- ✓ FACULTY AND STAFF
- ✓ PARENTS AND FAMILY
- ✓ CLASS OF 1971
- ✓ SÖL/HARRIS DAY ARCHITECTURE AND HAMMOND CONSTRUCTION POWER HOURS



**Harry Kephart Fuhrman '57** of Fayetteville, Ohio passed away on January 3, 2021.

**Hazel (Good '54) Haffner** of Seven Hills, Ohio passed away on November 18, 2020.

**Marilyn (Morgan '51) Harrison** of Doylestown, Pennsylvania passed away on March 7, 2021.

**Grace (Good '56) Hartman** of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania passed away on April 1, 2021.

**Kenneth Liebfried '57** of Lorain, Ohio passed away on January 26, 2021.

**Bruce Lower '58** of Clarkesville, Georgia passed away on March 9, 2021. He is the spouse of **Sue (Gat-trell '58) Lower**. Sue resides in DeLand, Florida.

**Marilyn "Wendy" (Wendel '59) Nagy** of Barrington, Illinois and Naples, Florida, passed away on November 28, 2020.

**James Obney '56** of Alliance, Ohio, passed away on October 15, 2020. He leaves behind his spouse, **Nora (Cavanaugh '56) Obney**.

**Jesse Reese '51** of Dover, Ohio passed away on January 30, 2021.



### **Dave Brown '54**

**Dave Brown '54** of Scottsdale, Arizona passed away on January 30, 2021. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Mount Union for his contributions in public administration and education. Brown Village is named in his honor.



### **Judge R.R. Denny Clunk '51**

**Judge R.R. Denny Clunk '51** of Alliance, Ohio passed away April 18, 2021. He was a probate judge for more than 30 years and served for several years on the Board of Governors of the Epsilon chapter of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity at Mount Union.

**Kathleen (Montgomery '52) Rickert** of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on November 28, 2020.

**Atty. John Saltsman '57** of Carrollton, Ohio passed away on March 31, 2021.

**Walter Sanders '59** of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma passed away on December 17, 2020.

**Jack Sponseller '53** of North Canton, Ohio passed away on April 27, 2021.

**Eugene Starr '59** of Fort Wayne, Indiana passed away on January 28, 2021. Eugene is survived by his wife **Sonja (Niemann '59) Starr**.

**Doris (Schneider '56) Stitle** of Salem, Ohio passed away on April 4, 2021.

**Raymond Sulzer '58** of Phoenix, Arizona passed away on November 24, 2020.

## **Mount Union Employees**

### **Joann Chernikovich**

**Joann Chernikovich** passed away on February 23, 2021. She previously worked in food services.

### **Laverne Edwards**

**Laverne Edwards** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on December 10, 2020. She worked in student billing for 35 years.

### **Russell Morrison**

**Russell Morrison** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on November 8, 2020. He was a diving coach at Mount Union.

### **Gerald Hoover**

**Gerald Hoover** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on April 12, 2021. He was a lab technician in the School of Engineering.



### **Dr. Michelle Ilona Mickelson Griffiths**

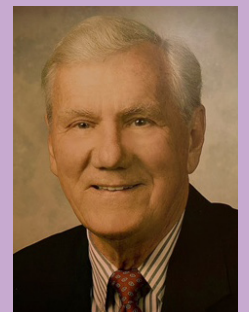
**Dr. Michelle Ilona Mickelson Griffiths** of Mineral Ridge, Ohio passed away on February 7, 2021. She taught English in the early 2000s.

### **Barbara Moser**

**Barbara Moser** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on March 13, 2021. She previously worked in food service.

### **Robert Sterling**

**Robert Sterling** of Silver Lake, Ohio passed away on April 17, 2021. He was an associate professor of business from 1988-2003. He is the father of **Sara Sterling-Jensen '93**.







**Nancy (Jones '54) Gray**

Nancy (Jones '54) Gray of Oberlin, Ohio passed away on May 24, 2021. She was a volunteer for several organizations for more than 50 years.

**Virginia (Saffell '46) McCready**

Virginia (Saffell '46) McCready of Alliance, Ohio passed away on February 4, 2021. She was active with the Tri Delta Sorority and was the treasurer for the Mount Union Football Stadium. She was also an active member of the Alumni Association.

**Thomas Petzinger '52**

Thomas Petzinger '52 of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on December 1, 2020. Tom is survived by children Elizabeth (Petzinger '88) Holter, Charles and Thomas. His granddaughter, Beatrice (Petzinger '07) Olesko, is also an alumna. He was a trustee since 1990.

**Dr. Harold "Pete" Walker '50** of Navarre, Ohio passed away on February 24, 2021.

**Charles Weick '53** of Schenectady, New York passed away on March 21, 2021.

**Joan (Immler '51) Wetzel** of Barberton, Ohio, spouse of the late **William Wetzel '51**, passed away on December 12, 2020.

**1960s**

**Melissa (Parker '60) Brown** of Miamisburg, Ohio passed away on November 25, 2020.

**Lynn (Wagner '61) Dawson** of Glendale, Arizona passed away on January 4, 2021.

**Maureen (Cassidy '67) Gillmer** of Reedville, Virginia passed away on February 21, 2021. She is survived by her husband **Charley Gillmer '65** and her sister **Kathy (Cassidy '69) Bojanoski**.

**Laurel (Sutton '62) Heyman** of Monroe, Michigan passed away on February 6, 2021.

**William Hinds '62** of Hilton Head, South Carolina passed away on February 24, 2021.

**Nancy (Curtis) Hoy '67** of Warren, Ohio passed away on April 20, 2021.

**Carolyn (Keller '67) Miller** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on January 20, 2021.

**Lynn Oehling '66** of Burlington, North Carolina passed away on April 8, 2021.

**David Olson '60** of Brunswick, Maine passed away on December 19, 2020.

**Carol (Keener '62) Patterson** of Salem, Ohio passed away on February 13, 2021.

**Ila (Davis '65) Paxson** of Salem, Ohio passed away on November 19, 2020.

**James Shaheen, Jr. '68** of Canton, Ohio passed away on January 12, 2021.

**Karen (Corbett '68) Spangler** of Whitefish, Montana passed away on February 12, 2021. She is survived by husband **David Spangler '68**.

**Virgil Stroia '62** of Canton, Ohio passed away on December 15, 2020.

**Shirley Robinson '66** of Collegeville, Pennsylvania passed away on August 20, 2020.

**1970s**

**John Ashbaugh '75** of Smithsburg, Maryland passed away on December 9, 2020.

**James Courtney '74** of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina passed away on January 7, 2021.

**Karen Edwards '70** of Steubenville, Ohio passed away on April 25, 2021.

**Paul Allan Hood '72** of Salem, Ohio passed away on April 3, 2021.

**Ronald Knepp '78** of Alliance, Ohio passed away on January 30, 2021. Ron

is survived by his wife **Cindy (Rudolph '78) Knepp**, daughter **Erika Knepp '12** and son Lee Knepp.

**Lynn (McMillen) Linsley '76** of East Palestine, Ohio passed away on May 23, 2021.

**Susan Thomas '79** of Akron, Ohio passed away on May 9, 2021.

**H. Douglas Wilcox '72** of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on February 4, 2021.

## 1980s

**John Steele '82** of Copley, Ohio passed away on January 11, 2021.

## 1990s

**Christopher Blaser '96** of Alliance, Ohio passed away November 29, 2020.

## 2000s

**Mark Brace '03** of Geneva, Ohio passed away on February 14, 2021.

**Clint Esbshade '05** of North Liberty, Iowa passed away on April 18, 2021.

## Friends

Benita (Archer) Baylor of Alliance, Ohio passed away on April 22, 2021. She attended Mount Union in the late 1940s.

Jon Castle of Nokomis, Florida passed away on May 17, 2021. He attended in the late 1950s.

Charles Robert "Bob" Donaldson of Upper Arlington, Ohio passed away on April 7, 2021. He attended Mount Union in the late 1950s.

Trina Dixon of Edmond, Oklahoma passed away on March 7, 2021. She attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

Charles Faust of Lisbon, Ohio passed away on December 1, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

Marilyn Felger of Alliance, Ohio passed away on November 11, 2020.

Phyllis (Mercer) Ferrare of Salem, Ohio passed away on November 27, 2020. She attended Mount Union in the 1970s.

Laurel Frey of Hagerstown, Maryland passed away on April 15, 2021. He attended Mount Union in the early 1950s.

Jon Frischkorn of Burlington, Iowa passed away on February 11, 2021. He attended Mount Union in the 1950s.

Opal Goosby of Canton, Ohio passed away on May 8, 2021. She attended Mount Union in the early 1950s.

Janet (Kolp) Haidet of Canton, Ohio passed away on December 27, 2020. She was the spouse of the late **Eugene Haidet '42** and mother of **Michael Haidet '77**, Mark Haidet, and Barbara Verbus.

Jack Harpst of Norwalk, Ohio passed away on December 26, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1950s.

JoAnn (Tracy) Holub of Charlotte, North Carolina passed away on November 22, 2020. She attended Mount Union in the 1940s.

Rebecca (Ingley) Kline of Painesville, Ohio passed away on July 12, 2018. She attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

Dale Miller of North Canton, Ohio passed away on January 15, 2020. He was the spouse of **Bethanne (Morrison '80) Miller** and the father of **Kelli (Miller '09) Liddle**.

Lenora Moseley of Avon, Ohio passed away on March 12, 2021. She attended Mount Union in the 1940s.

Roy Pankuch of Bristolville, Ohio passed away on February 16, 2021. He is the father of **Gregory Pankuch '14** and **Megan Pankuch '08**.

George Reihner of Scranton, Pennsylvania passed away on March 11, 2021. He is the father of **Kyle Reihner '23**.

Julia Sandblade of Hillsborough, New Jersey passed away on December 17, 2020. She attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

Bruce Schafer of Alliance, Ohio passed away on March 31, 2021. He attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

James Schaub of Delaware, Ohio, passed away on November 1, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the 1950s.

Ruth Spohn of Cleveland Heights, Ohio passed away on April 15, 2021. She attended Mount Union in the 1940s.

Roger Stitle of Salem, Ohio passed away on February 7, 2021. He was the spouse of **Doris (Schneider '56) Stitle**.

Wilbur Swam of Anaheim, California passed away on April 7, 2021. He attended Mount Union in the 1960s.

Richard Thames of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania passed away on November 20, 2020. He attended Mount Union in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Mary (Daily) Usis of Salem, Ohio passed away on January 12, 2021. She attended Mount Union with her late husband, Felix Usis, Jr., in the 1940s.

Stephen Zamagias of Alliance, Ohio passed away on February 12, 2021. He attended Mount Union and was a member of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

# CHAD JOHNSON '07

*Commits to Inspire Minds  
and Transform Lives*



*Doug Hubert '73, Chad Johnson '07, Cindy (Thorn '75) Hubert, and Allen Green '77 at An Evening Under the Stars donor recognition event at Gervasi Vineyard.*

*Community. Family. Home.* These are the words Chad Johnson '07, tax senior manager at Deloitte, used to describe what Mount Union means to him. Chad reflects fondly on his student experience, and since graduation has stayed involved on campus. Today, he's expressing his gratitude by creating a scholarship for current and future Raiders as part of the *Inspiring Minds, Transforming Lives* campaign.

Family and community have always been important to Chad. Growing up in a single-parent household, he has and continues to be close with his mother and sister. Although his mother had a solid job that provided everything they needed, Chad and his sister understood that resources for college would be limited. It was up to them to figure out how to finance their education. When the time came for Chad to choose a school, Mount was the place where he could picture himself thriving.

"I was so grateful to receive a generous financial aid package that made it possible for me to attend the school that truly was a home away from home," he said.

The Raider community offered Chad the same kind of close relationships he cherished in high school and with his family.

"The most impactful part of my college experience was the connections I made, both with classmates and faculty on campus and those who came to visit," he explained. "I built lifelong friendships with people that are still in my life today."

Philanthropy has become another theme of Chad's Mount Union story. As one of his class officers, his giving to Mount

began with their senior class gift. Since then, he has loyally supported The Mount Union Fund and other campus initiatives important to him. Additionally, he gives back of his time – attending events, volunteering, chairing alumni committees, and serving as vice president and now president of the Mount Union Alumni Association.

Ultimately, Chad's love for Mount Union has led to a special campaign gift, which will establish the Chad V. Johnson Endowed Scholarship for students in the School of Business.

"This is a way for me to give back to those who may be in a similar position as I was from a financial need perspective," he shared. "I'm fortunate to have benefitted from the support of alumni and to have a great job now as a result, so now it's my turn to make that possible for others."

"You don't always have to donate one giant lump sum of money," he continued. "I think it's important for people to know that everyone can do something to benefit Mount Union and the campaign. We can all make a difference – we just have to know our options and make it a priority."

Chad's gift will make an impact on the place he calls home and the family he has found at Mount Union. We hope you will join him with your support for current and future Raiders as we continue to work together to inspire minds and transform lives.

There are so many ways you, too, can make a lasting difference at Mount Union.

For more information, contact The Office of University Advancement at (800) 992-6682, ext. 2286 or [advancement@mountunion.edu](mailto:advancement@mountunion.edu).

# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

## ENDOWMENT

An endowment fund is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding that is essential for long-term financial stability.



## TRUST FUND

Invested to ensure longevity and lasting security



## STRONG FOUNDATION

Needed to increase the future growth of the University



## LONG-TERM IMPACT

Investment over time, maximizes financial stability

## THE MOUNT UNION FUND

Annual gifts to The Mount Union Fund are critical to the day-to-day operations of the University.



## CHECKING ACCOUNT

Available to use for immediate needs



## EASILY ACCESSIBLE

Used for annual expenses not covered by student tuition



## SHORT-TERM IMPACT

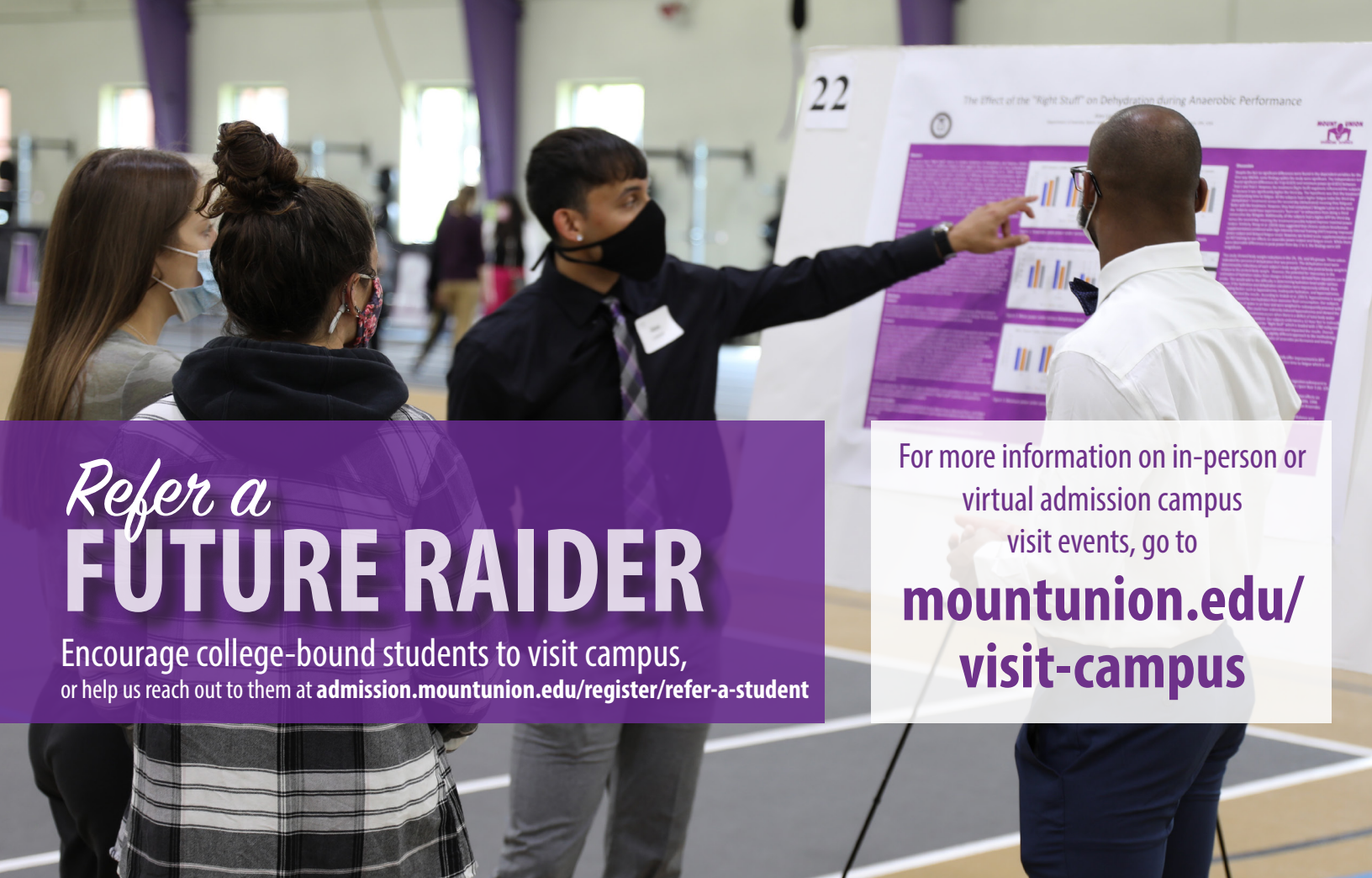
Small gifts make a big impact

Your gift to the University of Mount Union is an investment in current and future students. To learn more, visit [mountunion.edu/giving](http://mountunion.edu/giving).



**mountunion.edu**

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